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IT'S TIME FOR IKE TO GET MAD

News dispatches describe President Eisenhower as "angry" over attacks made on his national security conduct, his references obviously being particularly to attacks by Democratic Senator Symington of Missouri and to some extent by the other Democratic senatorial presidential hopefuls—Johnson of Texas, Kennedy of Massachusetts and Humphrey of Minnesota. In a press conference, the President described statements that he had misled the public on defense as "despicable."

It is time for the President to get angry—to get thoroughly mad and start raising a bit of blue Hades with some of these people. What should make him mad is not so much the actual words used at

times but the inferences. Regardless of what the words of Senator Symington and other Democratic senatorial critics may have been, the clear inference—and intent—to the public has been that the President was playing fast and loose with national security in order to save money and balance the budget, and that in doing this he has presented to the people a picture of security that is false.

The President is fully supported in his views by Secretary of Defense Gates, who is not just a civilian in public office but formerly one of the most capable officials in the Central Intelligence Agency; by all of the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Services, although naturally each would like to have some more money for his own service; by General Twining, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The opposition is made up mostly of book writing retired generals and a few Democratic Senators who want Mr. Eisenhower's job.

The information brought out in the now published testimony of Admiral Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval operations, refutes virtually the whole Symington picture as to missiles. So does the now published closed-doors testimony of Air Force Chief of Staff White, as well as General Twining.

Any effort to picture a man who is a five-star general, the President of the United States, the Commander-in-Chief of all of its Armed Forces, and who was Commander-in-Chief of the greatest victorious air-land-sea military force in world history as not knowing what he is talking about in security is ridiculous. Any effort to picture him as deceiving his own people on their security is contemptible. It verges on accusing Mr. Eisenhower of almost treasonable conduct.

Reportedly the President will have more to say on security in his air speech Sunday night. He should say plenty and he should say it in unmistakable language—and the time has come when he no longer need attempt to be courteous to those who have been, in effect, castigating him apparently to further their own political welfare more than for any other reason.

—THE SHREVEPORT TIMES

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